

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3448

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THEHAGUE 2110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: CODEL KENNEDY

1. SENATOR AND MRS.EDWARD KENNEDY TOGETHER WITH TWO OF THEIR CHILDREN AND THREE STAFF MEMBERS ARRIVED AT SCHIPHOL AS SCHEDULED AT 1135 APRIL 25 ABOARD SU-229. CODEL WAS MET BY WELCOME PARTY HEADED BY AMBASSADOR GOULD AND INCLUDING SELECTED EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS, ACTING CG AMSTERDAM AND KLM OFFICIALS. CODEL (MINUS MRS. KENNEDY) DEPARTED SCHIPHOL BOUND FOR NEW YORK ABOARD KL-641 AT 1315. MRS. KENNEDY DEPARTED SCHIPHOL AT 1530 BOUND FOR ZURICH ABOARD KL-315.
2. SENATOR KENNEDY HAD REQUESTED THAT NO PRESS INTER-VIEWS BE ARRANGED. HOWEVER, AS CODEL ARRIVAL HAD BEEN LEAKED BY KLM, ANUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE ASSEMBLED AT THE LANDING PIER. UPON BEING APPRISED OF THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS, THE SENATOR DECIDED TO MAKE A SHORT STATEMENT AND PERMIT PHOTO-GRAPHS. HE LATER DECIDED TO HOLD A SHORT PRESS CON-FERENCE IN THE VIP PRESS ROOM (SEE PARA 4 BELOW).
3. AN INFORMAL LIGHT LUNCH WAS SERVED BY KLM AFTER WHICH AMBASSADOR GOULD ACCOMPANIED SENATOR KENNEDY AND EDWARD, JR., ON A TOUR OF THE NEARBY AVIODOME WHICH

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HOUSES, IN ADDITION TO PERMANENT AVIATION HISTORY

EXHIBITS, APOLLO X CASULE. MEANWHILE MRS. KENNEDY ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. JELLEY, WIFE OF ACTING CG, AND EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER MADE A TRIP TO AMSTERDAM. CODEL (MINUS MRS. KENNEDY) REASSEMBLED AT 1300 AND BOARDED KL-641 ON SCHEDULE. MRS. KENNEDY RETURNED TO AIRPORT AT 1430 AND BOARDED KL-315 ON SCHEDULE.

4. PRESS COVERAGE: SOME 15 DUTCH JOURNALISTS AND AN AP MAN SHOWED UP AT AIRPORT IN HOPES THAT PRIOR WORD TO CONTRARY, SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD SAY A FEW WORDS. HE AGREED, AND IN BRIEF MEETING AT AIRPORT PRESS ROOM, HE OUTLINED PURPOSE OF HIS EASTERN EUROPEAN TRIP. THIS, HE SAID, WAS TO BETTER INFORM HIMSELF OF THE ISSUES IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. HE MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO CURRENT BOGGED-DOWN STATE OF MBFR TALKS. SENATOR DECLINED COMMENT ON NETHERLANDS STRONG POSITION TAKEN AT CSCE ON ISSUES IN BASKET THREE SINCE HE WAS NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION, AND WAS CLEARLY SURPRISED WHEN ASKED WHAT HE INTENDED DOING ABOUT THE BUKOVSKIY CASE. TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS TWO DAYS BEFORE OF LETTER FROM MRS. BUKOVSKIY TO HIM IN BEHALF HER SON, SENATOR SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD THE REPORTS NOR HAD HE SEEN SUCH A LETTER. HE WOULD, HE SAID, CERTAINLY LOOK INTO MATTER UPON RETURN TO US AND SEE WHAT HE COULD DO. (COMMENT: STAFF MEMBER HUNTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARDS THAT THEY HAD IN FACT BEEN HANDED UNIDENTIFIED LETTER EARLY THAT MORNING AFTER MEETING WITH JEWISH DISSIDENTS IN MOSCOW WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN LETTER FROM MRS. BUKOVSKIY BUT THAT THEY HAD NOT YET READ IT NOR HAD THEY BEEN TOLD THAT ITS CONTENTS HAD BEEN RELEASED TO WESTERN PRESS.) COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS SCANT. TV EVENING NEWS CARRIED ONE MINUTE OF AIRPORT PRESS BRIEFING AND SHOTS OF KENNEDY CHILDREN RIDING ON AIRPORT LUGGAGE CART. ONLY NEWSPAPER PLAY SEEN SO FAR IS PHOTO IN NATIONAL DAILY TELEGRAAF OF MRS. KENNEDY LEAVING HILTON HOTEL AFTER HAIRDRESSER'S APPOINTMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION ANYWHERE OF THE BUKOVSKIY LETTER.

5. CODEL AIRPORT TRANSFER WENT WITHOUT HITCH OWING LARGELY TO EXCELLENT COOPERATION KLM AND AIRPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS. CODEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO ALL CONCERNED.
GOULD

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